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TO: Derrick Woods

FROM: Donald J. Pochopien

DATE: May 12, 2003

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 703-308-6916

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. RTI 112R /1915-13980US02

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Bianchi, John R., *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/782,594

Filed: February 12, 2001

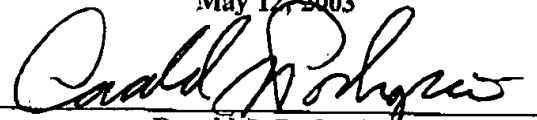
For: "Assembled Implant"

Group Art Unit: 1615

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, to the attention of Derrick Woods at facsimile telephone number 1-703-308-6916 on this date:

May 12, 2003



Donald J. Pochopier
Registration No. 32,167
Attorney for Applicants

FIFTH PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

At the top of page 1 of the specification, please delete the paragraph between lines 6 and 11, which recites the claim of priority, and insert in its place the following paragraph:

FI --This application is a continuation-in-part of each of the following: U.S. Application No. 09/191,232 filed on November 13, 1998, now U.S. Pat. 6,482,584; U.S. Application No. 09/378,527, filed on August 20, 1999, pending; U.S. Application number ~~09/701,933~~ 09/722,205, filed ~~August 25, 1998~~ November 25, 2000, pending, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/920,630, filed August 27, 1997, abandoned; U.S. Application No. 09/390,174, filed on September 7, 1999, pending; and of U.S. Application No. 29/123,227, filed on May 12, 2000, now

F1
U.S. Design Pat. D461,248; the priority of all of which is claimed herein under 35 U.S.C. § 120. This application is also related to provisional application serial number 60/181,622, filed February 10, 2000 to which the priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). --

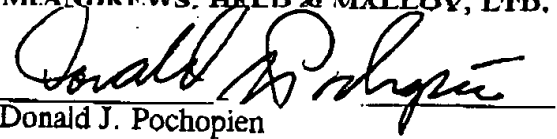
The amendment to the claim of priority does not add new matter.

It is believed that no fees are due as a result of filing this paper. However, if any fees are due as a result of filing this request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 13-0017 in the name of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

By:


Donald J. Pochopien

Registration No. 32,167

Attorney for Applicants

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(312) 775-8133

Date: May 12, 2003

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